

ASCARIS LUMBRICOIDES CAUSING FATAL LESIONS IN A CHIMPANZEE

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On June 6, 1922, I conducted a post mortem examination on a young female chimpanzee, which had died soon after importation into this country. There was no satisfactory clinical history. After being listless for a few days, she had been found dead one morning; the autopsy was made about twenty-four hours after death. The body was moderately well nourished. The face, ears and those areas of the skin not densely covered with hair, were distinctly icteric. A careful examination of all the cavities and their contained organs showed that gross abnormalities were confined to the small intestine and liver.

The duodenal mucous membrane was discoloured by numerous dark particles—presenting an appearance similar to that of a moderately anthracosed lung. The remainder of the intestinal mucous membrane was slightly inflamed. In the lumen were sixty-three large round worms ranging in length from 6.5 cms. in the case of males to 15.75 cms. in females. These on examination proved to be *Ascaris lumbricoides* (*vide* Thornton, 1924). The liver weighed about 6 ozs. The right or main lobe contained three abscesses, each about the size of an ordinary marble and in each of them was a degenerated worm measuring about 9 cms. in length. In the left lobe was a partly decomposed female worm about 13 cms. in length, bent on itself like a hair pin, each limb running a tortuous course in what appeared to be dilated bile ducts. At the junction of the hepatic and cystic ducts was a considerable dilatation which continued down the ductus choledochus for a short distance. In the sac so formed were six partly decomposed worms which varied in length from 5 to 7 cms. Two were bent on themselves, but the

others were not. There were thus four worms in the liver and six in the duct, making with the sixty-three in the small intestine a total of seventy-three.

The result of the autopsy leads one to conclude that the animal died as a result of the infestation with *Ascaris lumbricoides*, and that death was due more particularly to those worms which had gained the liver, apparently by way of the bile duct.

REFERENCE

- THORNTON, H. (1924). The Relationship between the *Ascarids* of Man, Pig and Chimpanzee. *Ann. Trop. Med. & Parasitol.*, Vol. XVIII, pp. 97-98.